

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.
NINTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

2057 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2315

1300 SOUTH LITCHFIELD ROAD, SUITE 115-H
GOODYEAR, ARIZONA 85338
(623) 707-0530

WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES

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ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

**COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
SUBCOMMITTEES

HEALTH CARE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE BORDER AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

December 6, 2023

Commissioner Troy A. Miller
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Chief Patrol Agent John R. Modlin
Tucson Field Office
4760 N. Oracle Road
Suite 316
Tucson, AZ 85705

Re: The Closing of the Lukeville Port of Entry

Dear Commissioner Miller and Chief Modlin,

I am writing about the unnecessary and imprudent closure of the Lukeville Port of Entry (POE). Many of my constituents have contacted me and expressed their concern about the unexpected closing of the Lukeville POE. The CBP's December 1st announcement¹ of the Lukeville POE's closing on the following Monday (December 4th) was an insufficient amount of time for people to adjust their travel, livelihoods, and routines. Indeed, you have created chaos on the border and effectively stranded thousands of American citizens in Puerto Pensaco.

By closing the port, U.S. citizens have no access route back into the United States save for a long detour within Mexico. But this long detour is advised against by the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. Embassy says only U.S. government employees can travel the road (Highway 8). The Embassy further advises that "U.S. citizens contemplating travel to or from Puerto Peñasco should weigh the security risks and consider making alternative plans."² You created this risky situation by stranding U.S. citizens.

It is clear that you have prioritized illegal aliens over U.S. citizens. In an effort to coddle, welcome, and process hordes of illegal aliens (as opposed to simply blocking their access and preventing them from walking into Arizona—as you are paid to do and as you swore to do) you have decided to roll out the welcome wagon for transparently fake "asylum seekers" who are

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, "[Statement from CBP on Operations in Lukeville, AZ](#)", December 1st, 2023

² U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Mexico, "[MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS: CLOSURE OF LUKEVILLE, ARIZONA PORT OF ENTRY](#)", December 1st, 2023.

in fact simply seeking jobs and social welfare benefits in this country. The fact that you would prioritize illegal aliens, and punish U.S. citizens, should cause you to reconsider your line of work. To be candid, you have one job: keep out illegal aliens and process legal entries (including U.S. citizens). You are failing at that job.

The alternative routes you have suggested for U.S. citizens involves drives over 200 miles away from the Lukeville. Again, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico stated these routes you selected have “security” issues. Had it occurred to you to send the illegal aliens on a 200-mile detour as opposed to the very people that pay your salary?

People rely on moving through the Lukeville POE to study, work, visit family, and receive medical care. There is also trade and commerce between Arizona and Mexico. To preserve stability in our communities, residents need a lawful means to safely and consistently cross the border in an orderly manner in that area.

I would like answers from CBP on the reasoning behind the decision to close the Lukeville POE and reward illegal aliens and punish U.S. citizens. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Lukeville Port was the 4th highest POE in Arizona for border crossings last year.³ Additionally, there are five other POE with fewer border crossings, and two of them are in Arizona.⁴

Why was Lukeville closed instead of some of the other less active ports of entry? Is there a plan or timeline to reopen the Lukeville Port? Who made this disastrous decision to close this port? When was it made? What alternatives were considered before closing this port? What efforts are you making to keep even one illegal alien out of our country? Why should Congress continue to fund you if all you are doing is acting as a processing concierge for illegal aliens?

Further, why wasn't more time given to warn citizens about the POE closure? Can CBP offer any assurance this closure will not result in more chaos at the border due to individuals seeking alternatives near Lukeville which are not lawful ports of entry?

³ Bureau of Transportation Statistics, “[Border Crossing/Entry Data](#)”, Accessed December 6th, 2023.

⁴ *Ibid.*

I respect the efforts of the many border patrol agents who are attempting to do their jobs. But for the last two and half years, your agency has been a dismal failure to the American people. Over 8 million illegal aliens have been escorted into our country by CBP in recent years, and well over two million “got aways” are currently calling the U.S. home. That’s on top of the existing 30 million illegal aliens that were in this country prior to 2021. I expect a clear and reasonable response from CBP to improve the agency’s public image and public trust in the United States government. Please provide a thorough response to this letter answering my questions. And please start with naming the person who made the decision to close the Lukeville port.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar" followed by a stylized flourish.

Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.

Member of U.S. Congress